

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanford et al in U.S. Patent No. 4,098,310 or Wislocker et al in U.S. Patent No. 4,881,584.

The second conveying system on the discharge side of the present invention serves not only for the delivery of the finished wood workpiece but also for the exact positioning of the workpiece during its machining. With the two cooperating tong parts of the coupling unit of the second conveying system, the workpiece can be gripped and exactly positioned also with respect to more than one tool that can be moved in different directions.

This is in contrast to the prior art devices where the second conveying systems are formed as conveying belts or conveying rollers. With such conveying belts or conveying rollers on the discharge side, the finished workpiece can only be removed from the machining area but not exactly positioned with respect to a tool during machining in order to guarantee exact and quick machining operations.

According to the invention, also during the transport of a first workpiece with the second conveying system different machining operations can be effected while

the first conveying system is already free for positioning the next workpiece. Since the tools can be moved along different axes and the workpiece can be exactly positioned with respect to the tools by the first and the second conveying system, the movements of the tools can be freely combined with the movements of the conveying system thereby allowing complex machining operations.

If, for example, the front end region 31 of the wood workpiece 3 has been cut by a saw 41, the protruding tong parts 25, 26 of the second conveying system can grip the front end of the wood workpiece 3 and can pull it out from the machining aggregate while a further machining can be carried out by a second tool 42. For a further conveying of the workpiece, the tong parts 25 and 26 can be released and the coupling unit will be re-moved in the direction of the machining aggregate where the tong parts can grip the workpiece again.

By the positioning system with the respective measuring equipment of the conveying systems, the exact position of the workpiece with respect to the tools can be defined and in combination with the controlled positioning of the tools even complex cutting paths, diagonal millings and the like can be produced.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition

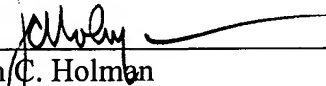
for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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